



NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN HILDA L.
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For Immediate Release
November 7, 2002

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**REP. SOLIS SECURES \$200,000 GRANT
FOR SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ENTREPRENEURS**

WASHINGTON, D.C –U.S. Representative Hilda L. Solis announced today that she secured a \$200,000 Refugee Microenterprise Development Grant for the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) Business Development Center in Los Angeles from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The grant will be used to implement small business training and one-on-one technical assistance for South Asian refugees in the San Gabriel Valley.

“Small businesses are critical to our economy and are the backbone of our country. With the slowdown of the economy, we must continue to invest in successful programs such as PACE- which provides minority communities with the tools they need to establish small businesses in our communities,” said Solis.

The PACE Business Development Center will offer 6-week, 120-hour training programs in business fundamentals for refugees in the San Gabriel Valley. Bilingual business counselors will deliver mentoring and technical assistance in English, Chinese, Vietnamese and Cambodian.

"We are so grateful for the support and advocacy we received from Congresswoman Solis and her office related to this grant. Congresswoman Solis has been a constant advocate of immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs in the San Gabriel Valley, and now we're pleased to be able to follow that advocacy with a hands-on program, ensuring that many aspiring and existing small business owners will have a real shot at success," said Tim Maschler, Director of PACE's business Development Center.

Minorities now own 15 percent of all businesses in the United States. The latest census shows that while the number of small businesses grew by 7 percent, Asian-owned firms grew by 30 percent. Receipts for these firms grew faster than the national average.

Representative Solis worked on behalf of PACE in securing the grant through the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

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